



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Tucson Fire Department**

**Fire Chief Patrick Kelly**



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Captain Trish Tracy  
Public Information Office  
(520) 410-1901 Pager

## **Summer Safety**

July 4<sup>th</sup> is right around the corner and most of us already have plans to spend time with our families grilling on the barbeque, swimming in the pool, and hosting holiday parties. As we enjoy a well-deserved day of fun and relaxation, keep in mind your responsibility to supervise your children and protect your family from injury.

### **Grilling Safety**

As you gear up for your holiday barbeque take some simple precautions to insure the safety of your friends and family.

According to the NFPA, gas and charcoal grills caused an average of 1,000 structure fires and 3,400 outdoor fires in or on home properties in 2001. To make sure your next barbecue doesn't go up in flames, the Home Safety Council recommends the following safety tips:

- Designate the grilling area a "No Play Zone" keeping kids and pets well away until grill equipment is completely cool.
- Before using, position your grill at least 10 feet away from other objects, including the house and any shrubs or bushes.
- Only use starter fluid made for barbecue grills when starting a fire in a charcoal grill.
- Before using a gas grill, check the connection between the propane tank and the fuel line to be sure it is working properly and not leaking.
- Never use a match to check for leaks. If you detect a leak, immediately turn off the gas and don't attempt to light the grill again until the leak is fixed.
- Never bring a barbecue grill indoors, or into any unventilated space. This is both a fire and carbon monoxide poisoning hazard.

## **Pool/Water Safety**

The heat is on and with it comes the threat of drowning and near drowning. We have been fortunate this year, so far the numbers indicate a decrease in our area. However one drowning is too many.

This event is 100% preventable and yet it continues to happen every year.

We need to supervise our children around water, make sure they learn how to swim, and properly secure pools should there be a lapse in supervision.

Children often drown in spite of an adult's presence; in swimming pools, during parties, and in bathtubs, right in our own homes. We can do better... Remember to watch your children around water.

## **Bicycle Safety**

Traumatic Brain Injuries are the leading killer and disabler of children. Each year nearly 3,000 children die and more than 29,000 children are hospitalized due to Traumatic Brain Injury (T.B.I.). The most important organ in the body, the brain is also one of the most fragile. Although the skull provides some natural protection, even a mild jolt to the brain can result in bruising of the brain and the tearing of blood vessels and nerves. Damaged brain cells do not heal like broken bones or torn muscles. When the child survives, consequences of TBI such as paralysis, severe amnesia, slurred speech, depression and anxiety and loss of motor skills can last a lifetime.

Now that summer is here, children are out of school and on the streets riding bikes, skateboards and scooters. To insure that your child is safely riding his or her bike, consider the following:

- Make sure your children are wearing a properly fitted bicycle helmet.
- Review safety rules.
- Ride as a family and teach your children the rules of the road.

###END###